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Ozzy

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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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## GOVERNMENT

### Robinson Rd. conservation approved by town council

By Jonah Snowden  
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PALMER — A land donor's conservation restriction was approved by town council at a recent meeting.

The donor of the conservation restriction is David Nichols, who is seeking to conserve over 40 acres of land on an old turkey farm at 2 Robinson Road in Palmer in honor of his late wife, Sandra Noga Nichols. During the meeting, Vice-President of the Opacum Land Trust Inc. Leslie Duthie represented Nichols and discussed the conservation restriction with the council. Duthie said the forest in the 40 acres of land is to be persevered and a set amount of the timber it is allowed to be harvested as part of through active forest management.

"He does want to keep it in a conservation setting," Nichols said.

"He does want to harvest some firewood (and) he is welcome to harvest some of the timber on his property, but Mr. Nichols likes to keep his forest a forest. A conservation restriction is meant to conserve the land. It's not meant to stop any action from happening. We all know that natural disasters happen, so he would want to be able to address some of those situations, should they arise. This does not require taxpayer money and it does not change the taxes that Mr. Nichols will pay."

Duthie also said if the property was to be used by the public in the future — public access is not currently allowed — there would have to be a negotiation between the landowner and Opacum.

"If the next person came along and said, 'wow, I've got all this property, it would be great to allow people to walk on it,' then we could make that change," Duthie said. "At this time, the landowner is not allowing full public access. That does not mean no one is allowed to use the property. It's just that he's trying to maintain his privacy. The land (is) fairly close to his home and I just think he's trying to be sensitive to that situation."

District 1 Councilor Philip Hebert, who was opposed to the conservation restriction, said he believes Nichols can do what he wants on his land, including denying anyone else access.

"This is now something that can never be changed," Hebert said. Hebert also said if there was a clause in the restriction that could reserve it, he would feel different about it.

"The town has no use (for it), you can't walk on it," Hebert said.

"I see no value in doing this. He already has it in restricting under forestry. He can leave it that way. The taxes are still the same, but to do something that you can never, ever reverse to me is not right."

In response, Duthie said if someone else came along, they could build and sell additional houses and revive the former turkey farm.

"I don't want you to think that there is no other use of this land, because a section of the property has been excluded from the restriction," Duthie said. "There are other options because not all of the land is restricted."

In the end, the council voted 4-2 in support of the conservation restriction.

# year in review 2021

## JANUARY 2021

It happens every year. No sooner than the Christmas decorations come down and life returns to "normal" that it seems like it's time again to get the box of ornaments back out of storage. Yes, time does seem to fly, even in topsy turvy years like 2021.

Yet, there's so much happening each day and, every week we aim to bring you news and features to chronicle life in our local communities. Like we do at this time every year, here's a look back at some of the news and events that made the pages of the Journal Register over the past year. We hope you appreciate the walk down Memory Lane and here's wishing all of you a very happy 2022!

## January



Pet of the Month  
Bernie

### Palmer earns praise for reducing energy use

The latest Palmer Master Plan Steering Committee meeting focused on sustainability and climate adaptation. During a public forum — No. 6 in the series and held virtually on M-PACT, Facebook Live and Zoom — featured consultants Donny Goris-Kolb and Van Du, both with the engineering firm VHB. Goris-Kolb is project manager and Du is a sustainability planner.

Du began the discussion by sharing that the momentum for sustainability began in 2010 with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Certified Green Community, which according to Du, achieved a 41 percent energy reduction in 2014.

### Infrastructure improvements coming

In Holland, it was announced that a sidewalk, traffic measures and amenities are coming to a portion of Sturbridge Road near Holland Elementary School.

Funding for the project got a boost in the latest round of MassDOT's Shared Winter Streets and



### Over \$4 million available for projects in Monson

Spaces Program. The Town of Holland was awarded \$37,760 of more than \$3 million split among 15 municipalities in the Commonwealth.

This program launched in June 2020 and has provided \$10.2 million to municipalities and provides technical and funding assistance to help Massachusetts cities and towns during winter. It was intended in part to give towns and cities a boost during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has dented public coffers.

### Financial aid offered to avoid homelessness

In pre-COVID times, housing insecurity in Massachusetts, including in local communities, already was concerning to organizations that monitor such issues. The pandemic that's approaching a one-year anniversary and distressed a burgeoning economy along the way has made the situation even more dire, they say.

That's why organizations like Way Finders are eager to get the word out about resources available to assist financially distressed residents, including those who are homeless or could lose their homes this year. Way Finders, a nonprofit organization serving Western Mass., is working with government agencies such as the Town of Monson Community Preservation Committee and the Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and Community Development to offer a lifeline. According to data from Way Finders, 50% of residents in this region use more than 30% of their income on housing — and one in four use more than half their income to keep a roof overhead.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

## FEBRUARY 2021



### Arrest made in Fox St. homicide

A suspect has been arrested after a Feb. 8 homicide at a Fox Street home.

Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office arrested Brenda Mathew, 54, of Palmer, who has been charged with murder, according to the district attorney's office.

Mathew, reportedly a guest of a couple who lived in the Fox Street home, was taken into custody at Baystate Medical Center and transported to the Palmer Police Department where she was booked that night.

At 8:08 a.m. Feb. 8, "uniformed members of the Palmer Police Department responded to Fox Street after receiving a 9-1-1 call reporting an incident that has left two people injured and one deceased," the DA's said in a statement it released hours after an incident at the home in which the residents died.



### Discord in Brimfield boils over

During the Feb. 1 Brimfield Board of Selectmen meeting, a heated discussion on potential food distribution permits resulted in a tabling of the decision. Selectmen Ryan Olstzta, who temporarily took over as chairman for Michael Doyle, led the discussion on different permits. During the discussion, Olstzta said the reason for different permits is because it furthers the approach to business diversity Brimfield desires.

The town only has an annual common license that Olstzta said serves as a one size fits all for all businesses and selling food. The cost of the license is \$75 a year and requires every food establishment with the capability of cooking, preparing and servicing food to provide seating for immediate consumption.

"That's why it doesn't exactly fit for your food truck, your person who's selling fresh peanuts or something like that," said Olstzta, who didn't seek re-election and eventually lost his job as a Brimfield police officer during the first meeting following the 2021 elections.

FEBRUARY | page 2



Pet of the Month  
Roy

## TRANSPORTATION

### Rep. Smola announces grant for Quaboag Connector

Mass. Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is announced last week the Town of Ware has been awarded a \$150,000 grant for costs associated with the operation of the Quaboag Connector, part of a total of \$8.9 million for municipalities, Councils on Aging, nonprofit organizations and other entities to use under the Community Transit Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

The annual competitive grant program awards funds to be used for transit operating costs, mobility management, or new capital investments. The Quaboag Connector offers transportation to residents of Belchertown, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Monson, Palmer, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield. For a cost of \$2 (\$4 roundtrip), the Connector provides rides within the Quaboag region. Trips related to employment and education are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rides to work, job training programs and other job-related destinations take

first priority. To request a ride, local residents should call 413 544-3401.

"The Quaboag Connector is a wonderful resource for people in or community and I want to thank them for all that they do," Smola said.

"Regional transit authorities and non-profit organizations provide critical services for people statewide help support our towns address their transportation needs."

The funding being announced last week is for applications made to the program during 2021 for Fiscal Year 2022. Awards include funding to 27 organizations for 115 vans and minibuses and money to 18 entities for 23 operating and mobility management projects. Award recipients include some of the state's 15 Regional Transit Authorities, municipalities, Councils on Aging, and eligible nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts.

The Community Transit Grant Program is the Commonwealth's annual competitive grant program to distribute both Federal Transit

SMOLA | page 11







OZZY

Like her family, the Caswells, 10-month-old Ozzy is new to the Monson community. Ozzy loves all things made of paper, eating houseplants and canned cat food, and chasing around things that don't exist. Ozzy and her human siblings Henry, 11; Audrey Mae, 7; and Elijah, 5, love to play games together and snuggle. Her parents are Alan and Mary Caswell.

Do you have a pet that makes your life special? We feature your pets (all pets are welcome – not just cats and dogs!) here and on Facebook every week. Just email a high-quality jpg and some information, including your pet's name, your name, and town, to mharrison@turley.com.

## Gift shop closed, calendars for sale

PALMER — The Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop, which had re-opened recently, is once again temporarily closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lotto calendars for 2022 are still available, however, at the Day and Night Diner or by calling 413-283-5759 or 413-204-2368.

## MARCH 2021



Pet of the Month Juju

## Facebook post sparks dog controversy

A Facebook post about a dog in the care of Palmer's animal control department drew hundreds of posts on a personal page and then dozens more – many angry – on the town's.

An apparently underweight and neglected-looking Great Dane, Bill was rescued from the basement of a local home by Palmer Animal Control. The details about his rescue have not been disclosed, but Town Manager Ryan McNutt said Bill has been examined by a vet, has no serious health issues and is recovering in the care of Animal Control Officer Sydney Plante while staying on her farm.

The controversy over Bill occurred when a now-former town employee in a different department saw Bill in his enclosure at the Palmer animal



shelter, part of which can be viewed from outside. The former employee posted a photo of Bill on his personal Facebook page, pointing out what appears to be piles of feces and evidence that Bill was suffering from chronic diarrhea. The poster's comments included criticism of animal control's treatment of the dog and he said he was fired for his post.

## Interim administrator looks forward

Less than a month ago, Jennifer Wolowicz became interim town administrator in Monson after now-former administrator Evan Brassard resigned to take the same position with the town of Grafton.

As a seasoned municipal manager who worked with the town of South Hadley for more than 15 years in different positions, including serving as interim town administrator twice, facilities manager, acting town manager, assistant town administrator, and chief procurement officer, Wolowicz knows her

way around Town Hall – no matter which town it's in. With each position, she gained experience within all aspects of town administrations, including working with the town's annual budget, HR facilities, managing departments, economic development, and more.

Wolowicz said she saw this open position as an opportunity to advance herself in her professional career.

"Last year, I completed my master's in public administration. This is an opportunity for me to advance myself and put the education and knowledge I have to work for the town of Monson."

## Father and son face felony weapons and illicit drug charges

A father and son were arrested on separate drug and firearms charges in connection with a multi-jurisdictional investigation that involved other law enforcement agencies, including the Monson Police Department, the Hampden County Special Response Team and State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office.

Ludlow Police Chief Daniel Valadas said the Monson Police Department secured a search and arrest warrant for 25-year-old Ethan Fitzgerald of Ludlow, who's a suspect in



a recent shooting at the Magic Lantern strip club.

"When they executed the search warrant, we developed probable cause to arrest the father," 43-year-old Joey Fitzgerald, also of Ludlow, Valadas said.

## Palmer students, staff celebrate being back in school

By any measure, Day No. 1 of a new phase was an unequalled success.

March 15 marked the first day of a new phased-in plan to bring students back inside Palmer High School and Old Mill Pond Elementary.

In this plan, both cohorts in both schools have returned for in-person learning for four days a week, except on Wednesday, when deep cleaning and sanitization in schools occurs. Superintendent of Palmer Public Schools, Patricia Gardner, said she is satisfied with how the first few days on the new plan has played out.

## Source of house fires determined

In the early morning hours of Sunday, March 14, the Palmer Police and Bondsville fire departments responded to a fire at 135 Griffin Street and later that day to another at a home on High Street, both in Bondsville.

No injuries were reported, but that Griffin Street home was destroyed. Detectives from the Palmer Police Department, members of the Bondsville Fire Department, and Mass. State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated both fires. A second floor fireplace was determined to be the cause of the Griffin Street fire.

The High Street fire was in a building being remodeled from a side-by-side duplex into a single family home. The fire started and was contained to a second floor room.

"The cause of the fire is consistent with burning ritualistic material such as sage and incense," according to the fire marshal's office statement.

FEBRUARY | from page 1

## Monson confronts the COVID crisis

When Lorri McCool began working in Monson's health depart-

ment more than 30 years ago, she never could have anticipated a global pandemic impacting the town for more than a year. But now, the Monson Health Department serves a more important role in the community than ever before.

"If this pandemic has shown

anything, it's the needs and the importance of health departments," said McCool, Monson's health and Title 5 inspector.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, McCool said the Monson Board of Health followed Gov. Baker's orders for recommended safe-

ty measures, and each business in town was responsible for following those orders.

## Wales food pantry doing more with less

Imagine feeding a crowd of about 650 for Thanksgiving or Easter. With a skeleton crew and on a shoestring budget. Then think about what it takes to keep a few hundred neighbors facing food insecurity properly fed from week to week.

That's what Jean Smith, director of the Wales Community Pantry, contends with daily. The not-for-profit, which serves residents of Brimfield, Wales, and Holland, was busy enough in pre-COVID times. For nearly a year since the pandemic began, Smith and the food pantry has been hit with the double whammy of serving waves of new clients with a smaller staff. Then there's

the issue of navigating protocols to keep everyone from food suppliers and other donors to clients, volunteers – and Smith herself – safe from coronavirus.

"We have grown since the pandemic," Smith said about the organization's mission.

"COVID-19 has created a lot of financial problems for people in our area. A lot of people lost their jobs and have no idea if they'll be a job to go back to. The loss of unemployment has made it very hard on people. It's a strange time for all of us."

## Legislation aimed at addressing pyrrhotite issue

Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) filed omnibus legislation aimed at addressing the crumbling foundation issue that has plagued homeowners in the south

central part of the state, including homes in Monson, Brimfield, Palmer, and elsewhere, whose foundations are deteriorating due to the presence of pyrrhotite.

The legislation comes in the wake of a report filed last year by the legislative special commission established to study the issue, and aims to address a number of the commission's recommendations. These include establishing tax abatements for affected homeowners, requiring the disclosure of foundation repairs for those looking to sell their home, and creating new standards for quarry operators and concrete producers.

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## Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## Monson cannabis dispensary presents Jan. 11

MONSON — Monson Marijuana Cannabis Dispensary is a proposed new business in town scheduled to introduce the company to the Monson Select Board and residents at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11.

The company's leadership team plans to share its vision of community partnership "built on trust, transparency and being a good neighbor," according to a statement.

"The company's goal is to build and operate a safe and secure boutique adult-use retail and manufacturing establishment" at 17 Palmer Road in Monson, the company states. The proposed hours of operation are noon to 8 p.m. daily.

"Monson Marijuana Cannabis Dispensary is delighted to have this opportunity to present to the Monson Select Board and broader community," it said in the statement. The company's leadership team — Casey Nothe, CEO; Kartik Parmar, chief marketing officer; and Mostafa Moussa, chief operating officer — says it will "continue to work diligently in advance of the meeting to meet interested and neighboring residents and businesses." Nothe, a Monson native, stated, "We are very excited to start the process of bringing this new retail business to Monson and we want Monson's residents and businesses to know that our door is always open. We understand with any new business and emerging industry, there will be a lot of questions. We are here to answer your questions and to make a positive community impact on Monson."

## Finance Board members needed

Do you possess financial expertise? If so, the town of Holland Finance Board invites you to join the team.

The Finance Board is actively recruiting for two full members and one associate member.

If interested, send an email to [financeboard@hollandma.org](mailto:financeboard@hollandma.org) or contact the Town Moderator.

## APRIL 2021



Pet of the Month  
Lana

## No leads, but a theory on origin of dead animals

Police never determined who dumped bags of dead animals on a local road — or why — but they have a theory. To Brimfield Police Chief Charlie Kuss, all evidence points to an inexperienced, part-time farmer.

"What we don't believe, is there's an epidemic of animals," Kuss said.

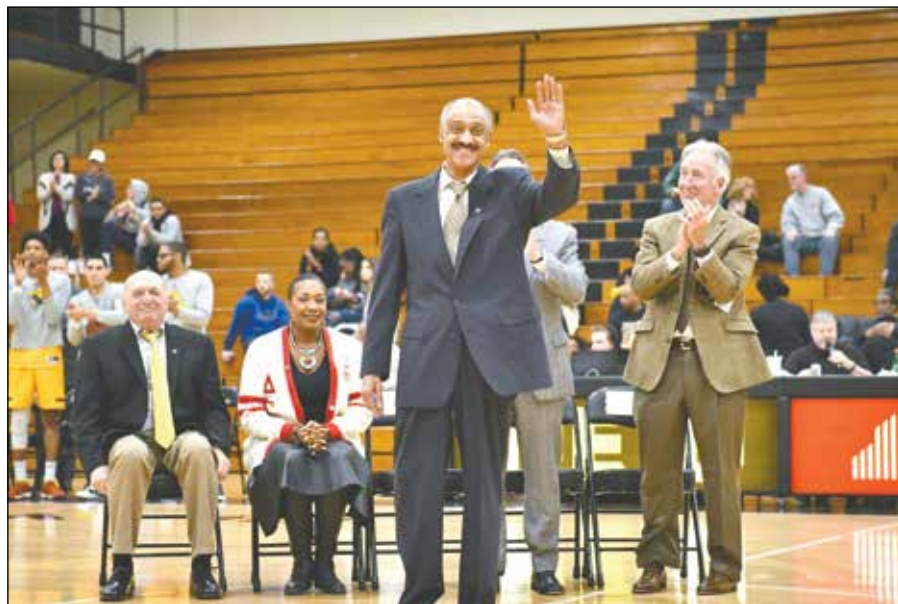
"These were barnyard animals and we think this is more of a case of a hobbyist farmer whose animals had some kind of disease — they got sick or had worms — and was culling the herd, so to speak," Kuss said.

## Flea markets to open, though how many is unclear

In another sure sign of spring, plans are underway for the beginning of antique show/flea market season. Like much of life during a pandemic year, this will look and feel a little different than years past.

The Brimfield Board of Selectmen decided night to allow Brimfield Outdoor Antiques Shows and Flea Markets to open May 11 with restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidelines from the state and the town's board of health limits crowd size, enforces social distancing and other measures as public officials continue trying to balance the needs of businesses and consumers with public safety concerns.

Most of the 20 or so fields typically open along the mile-long stretch apparently are sitting out the season's opening round and hoping the COVID cloud clears considerably in time for the next one in July. Vendors have until the end of the week to decide.



## Summerfest events canceled due to pandemic

The annual Monson Summerfest will not stage its June Fireworks or Independence Day activities, the committee decided in April.

The Monson Summerfest Committee voted to suspend the June fireworks and Fourth of July activities for this year after consulting local health agencies. The committee decided it is not in the best interest of the town to hold its annual celebration while cases of COVID-19 remain high in the area — Monson has been in the "Red" or high-risk category for several weeks — and some state-mandated restrictions remain in place.

"The committee has always prided itself in providing our community and visitors with a safe, friendly, and family oriented day in keeping with the traditional Fourth of July celebration," Committee Chairman Steve Slozak said.

## Palmer High legend honored by alma mater

The American International College men's basketball team locker room will enjoy a much-needed makeover with help from friends in the community and have a new name.

The facility will be named in honor of the late Frank Oppedisano, a fixture in Palmer for decades and a member of the AIC Class of 1967. Oppedisano played basketball for AIC, where he majored in history. He went on to teach history at Palmer High for nearly 40 years and coached the basketball team there for a quarter century.



lar band FAT, started a project in March 2020, just as the gravity of the burgeoning pandemic was coming into the national consciousness. That was the genesis of the song — and subsequent video — "Lean On Me/Stand By You."

Both the song and video, which features an actress from Monson, will debut online May 6, the first day of National Nurses Week. Anyone can stream the video on YouTube or Facebook and Newland and his current band, RadioX, will follow the debut with a live, 45-minute set.

Another component is the social media initiative #thxcrgrvr (Thanks Caregiver), which has Facebook and Instagram pages called thxcrgrvr.

"The thing I love about this is it's a simple ask," Newland says.

"We're not asking for money, not asking anyone to take a political side or anything with baggage. They just need support," Newland says, referring to frontline health workers.

## It's still spring, right? Surprise snowfall

After a freaky nor'easter blanketed the area in snow, we asked readers on Facebook to send us some photos of their neighborhoods and how they decided to make the most of the unexpected arctic blast in spring.



### DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com) or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

## Sheriff Cocchi, staff deliver Christmas presents to 100 children

By Jonah Snowden  
[jsnowden@turley.com](mailto:jsnowden@turley.com)

LUDLOW — Just in time for Christmas, Hampden County Sheriff's Department's Sheriff Nicholas Cocchi and other staff members spent the prior Thursday morning putting over 100 gifts together for children across Western Mass.

Because of the donations from the Jay Caron Community Impact Foundation, Springfield Together Inc., local anonymous businesses, the Massachusetts Trial Courts and the Toys for Tots Program, this initiative was successfully executed. Recipients received food, toys, arts and crafts, coloring books and more.

Cocchi, who understands how difficult things have gotten for parents across the region due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thought gathering these gifts together would help several families this holiday season.

"I always look back at my fortunate ability to enjoy the holiday season and when I was younger," Cocchi said.

"I never understood what it took to enjoy it and as I got older and became a parent, I understood sometimes it takes economic and financial means. I just want to make sure that every child that we can have an impact with can have a holiday season that they deserve and enjoy," he said.

"Yesterday we were handing out turkeys and hams to the folks in Springfield, and the amount of gratitude and gratefulness that we're seeing from the people that are receiving our generous gifts has been tremendous. It's not about taking, it's about giving."

A few of the towns Cocchi and other staff members visited in time for Christmas included Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, Agawam, and Ludlow. Although Cocchi lives in Ludlow and will also have

toys distributed to families there, he said he considers his residency to be the entirety of Hampden County. "I consider myself a community member in 23 cities and towns throughout the county," Cocchi said.

"I make it a point to stop in every single city and town. When I was campaigning, I hit them all, when I serve, I'm going to hit them all and when I get back on the trail, I'm going to hit them all, because it is about serving the people."

Cocchi also said the reason why they choose to supply the children with items such as arts and crafts, is to help them tap into their creative side.

"It's about stimulating the mind," Cocchi said.

"They're activities that are going to help you hone in your skills and also help you do well in school."

Should anyone like the sheriff's department's assistance next year, Cocchi said they are welcome to reach out to their office.

"We'll put you on our list," Cocchi said.

"We will make sure that we connect with you and that we can help provide that level of happiness and support next year for your family as well."



Courtesy Photo

On Thursday, Dec. 23, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, along with several staff members, put together 100 gifts for young people in Hampden County.

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## MAY 2021

### Ladies Auxiliary replaces weeping willow

To replace a treasured weeping willow in Laviolette Field lost to a storm, the Three Rivers Fire Fighters Association Ladies Auxiliary hosted a tree planting event. The large weeping willow, which auxiliary President Bonnie Lafayette said was a magnet for photographers, was around for as long as Laviolette field has been around.

"We thought 'why not replace it with another tree?'" Lafayette said.

Auxiliary Vice President Marjorie Cavanaugh said replacing the tree is one of the many ways to help spruce up the town. She also said the group is grateful for landscape company Five Star Gardens, which planted the tree.



Pets of the Month: Finnley and Willow

### Community rallying around family displaced by fire

A family that fled a devastating house fire was starting to rebound with help from the community.

Assistant to the Monson Town Clerk Jo Buswell-Sauriol, Kristen Lemire and others were asking for residents to assist the Mello-Sattler family, which lost their home to a fire on April 27. Neither the family nor any of the several dozen firefighters who worked through the night and into the morning battling the blaze were injured, but the home on Hovey Road was a complete loss.

The Palmer, Bondsville, Holland, and Ludlow fire departments were among those that responded.

The family's only possessions not consumed by the fire was the clothes on their backs when then fled the home.

### Former police officer convicted, sentenced

Daniel Cintron, 31, of Monson, a former Springfield Police Officer, was recently found guilty in a jury-waived trial in Hampden Superior Court on charges of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 (two counts), and intimidation of a witness (two counts).

Following the court's verdict, he was sentenced to two to three years in state prison. Cintron's conviction was the second trial on these charges after a jury in September 2019 deadlocked on a number of charges. The Hampden District Attorney's Office opted to retry the case but had to wait until recently due to the pandemic's impact on the court system.

The charges stemmed from an investigation by the Hampden District Attorney's Office's Special Victims Unit, the Springfield Police De-



partment's Special Victims Unit, and the Chicopee Police Department.

### Regional vaccine clinic firing on all cylinders for multiple towns

The days of COVID-19 vaccine shortages are over and it doesn't look like they're coming back. Anyone who wants a vaccination can get one essentially on-demand now. That includes everyone 16 and older and Massachusetts is getting close to approving a vaccine for people ages 12 to 15. Gov. Baker said recently. With the state's shift from mass vaccination sites like stadiums and malls to smaller, regional sites, the clinic at Palmer's Converse Street has been positioned for months to service the area.

### Voters give elected body a new gender-neutral name

When all is said and done, 2021 might be

remembered as the "Year of the Woman" in Monson.

Among the usual nuts and bolts work done in a typical annual town meeting such as funding government and services for a new fiscal year, voters approved Article 28, which changes the name of Monson's Board of Selectmen to simply the Select Board.

The budget approved for the current fiscal year that's ending was \$25,673,964. Town Accountant Jamie Farnum explained most of the increase is tied to debt service approved at prior town meetings. Many expenses were lowered or remained flat.

Resident Gretchen Neggers proposed an amendment to the Health and Human Services line in the omnibus spending package funding veterans services. After several revisions, some money – about a third of the \$34,000 budget – was carved out for a part-time position in case one is created, along with office expenses – and the amendment was passed.

## JUNE 2021



### Monson observes tornado anniversary

The sky had been unusually dark that day, June 1, 2011. Severe storms had developed across western Massachusetts. A touchdown was confirmed near Springfield—a strong EF3 tornado. And over the next hour, damage was reported as far east as Southbridge from this long track tornado. In total, 10 towns and cities—Westfield, West Springfield, Springfield, Monson, Hampden, Wilbraham, Brimfield, Sturbridge, Southbridge, and Charlton—all sustained damage from the tornado.

This outbreak included the first killer tornado in Massachusetts since the 1995 Great Barrington tornado. Continuing eastward, the tornado tracked through Wilbraham, causing near-total deforestation and extensive structural damage. The storm then moved through the center of Monson, damaging nearly every structure in the area. A total of 77 buildings were destroyed, according to reports, some completely.

The roof of the old Monson High School was completely destroyed. Reports indicate that a picture from Monson was found nearly 60 miles away in Natick.

The 10th anniversary of the 2011 tornado was observed at First Church of Monson at 5:30 p.m. June 1.

### Residents, businesses help couple after tragic fire

The community rallied around a local couple who lost their home in a fire that also claimed the life of another resident.

The three lived on different sides of the Maple Street duplex but were more than neighbors. Laurie Partlow, who lived on one side, died in the fire investigators said was started by a discarded cigarette butt. Olivia Barber and Kyle Smith, who lived on the other side, lost their home and most of their possessions to smoke and water damage. Barber, who called in the fire early on May 24, was able to save the couple's dog. Smith is a

Bondsville firefighter who wasn't at home when the fire broke out and joined the effort to save the duplex once he arrived.

Though not technically not related, Smith and Partlow were close, according to friends, who explained Partlow's son and Smith are half-brothers.

After hearing about the tragedy, Lori Chiacchia, who created Santa's Elves of Palmer and Demore's Automotive co-owner Jay Demore, both dedicated to helping those in need, decided to come together to assist Barber and Smith while they recover from their loss.



### It's the end of an era as Ed Harrison retires

After more than 40 years of service to his town, including more than two decades as a Selectman, Ed Harrison was as humble after leaving office as he was entering it.

"When I first met Ed the first thing he said was 'we're going to like working with you,'" former Monson Town Administrator Gretchen Neggers said at a reception at Town Hall Friday to honor Harrison, who did not seek another term in last week's elections.

"I said, 'I don't think that's how it works. I work for you!'"

That anecdote was one of several that had a roomful of well-wishers laughing. Not that it was all fun and games in town government during Harrison's years of service. Clearly, though, his legacy is rooted in a desire to serve the public and respect others regardless of where someone stands in the hierarchy.

"We only meet twice a month," Harrison said of the select board before the reception.

"The town manager and the town finance director and the department heads, they do most of the day-to-day work and keep the town running," he said.

### Pathfinder tech team makes robotics finals

History was made at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School when the Tech VEX Robotics Club's Team 785A competed at the 2021 Live Remote VEX Robotics World Championship recently and nearly won.

The team is comprised of team Captain Michaela Tourtellot, Co-captain, and Lead Programmer Ethan Griswold, Scoring Specialist McKenna Martin, Game Specialist Harrison Lavoie, Operator Hunter Skowrya, and Programmer Catalina Mudgett.

At the World Championship, held remotely, the team competed against some 800 teams from 35 countries with their robot Rome to successfully complete all of its assigned tasks. The team was able to win three of its four matches on the first day and two additional matches on the second.



Pet of the Month  
Atlas



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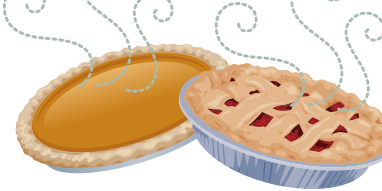
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JULY 2021

Public rallies  
around Officer  
Olszta

In a raucous, sometimes chaotic meeting, the Select Board, with two new members, seemed to leave the town without a functional police force for a time, expelled an audience member, prevented others from speaking, and may have left itself vulnerable to legal action.

The meeting had barely ended before angry residents launched a recall drive that may have to wait until fall but nonetheless gained momentum through the power of social media.

Pat Leaming and Martin Kelly won the two open Select Board terms in the prior week's election. The first post-election Select Board meeting was scheduled for the following week, when the board scheduled to re-organize, but was moved up a week with the minimum required two-days notice and it didn't take long for it to go off the rails.

The main issue was whether or not to re-appoint nine police officers. One of them, Ryan Olszta, apparently expected less than full support from the new-look board. Olszta, a former selectman, has been active on Facebook, posting about hostility directed at him that could affect his status. A week later, Leaming pretended to resign. Later, recall petitions against Leaming and eventual board Chair Suzanne Collins ultimately failed.

Cultural Center  
celebrates with  
live, outdoor music

Talk about swinging into summer. Residents were invited to an evening of music, food, and fun at Pulaski Park Pavilion on July 18. Jeff Gavioli, Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra, and vocalist Cindy Redd will be performing classic swing and other hits from Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Bruno Mars and more. Admission is free. Food and beverages



will also be available for purchase at the Pulaski Park Kitchen and Bar.

This event is a collaboration between the Palmer Cultural Council and the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center. Robert Haveles, president of the PHCC, said the upcoming performance is the center's first live event since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're finding this will be an opportunity to bring the community together, enjoy some food and share their excitement of being together," Haveles said.

Holland voters  
elect new office  
holders

James Whalen and Kyle Merolla both won multiple offices in Holland's recent town elections. Whalen defeated Merolla for a three-year term on the Select Board 181 votes to 96.

Also elected was Brock Jenkins, who won a three-year term on the Board of Health, 156-188 over David Kowalski.

Several candidates won office by default after running uncontested.

Merolla did win a five-year term on the Planning Board with 136 votes to 130 for Janice Brigham and Whalen won a second office, a three-year term on the Planning Board, appearing on the

ballot alone. Merolla completed the hat trick after running uncontested for water commissioner and getting 214 votes.

Amanda Fusco-Joppas and Candace Green both won three-year terms on the School committee with 155 and 217 votes, respectfully.



Pet of the Month  
Shoes

Monson woman  
competes for Miss  
Mass title

All through her teen years – and ever since – Jackie O'Keefe

has parlayed her talent and poise into opportunities to bring her concerns and initiatives to a bigger stage.

In July, O'Keefe, 26, took her platform to the Miss Massachusetts Scholarship Competition July 16-17 in the Hanover Theatre in Worcester. The winner moves on to the national competition. Even before Saturday's final round, local residents and supporters anywhere in the world with an internet connection could help the 2013 Monson High School graduate win the Miss Massachusetts People's Choice award.

O'Keefe, the reigning Miss Lakeville – contestants qualify for the state competition by winning local titles – presented her Social Impact Initiative, "Fresh Check Day: Strengthening Mental Health in College Students" and perform a tap dance to NSYNC's hit "Pop."

A lifelong Monson resident and the daughter of Charlie and Joanie O'Keefe, she is a 2018 graduate of Dean College and 2020 graduate of Springfield College, where she obtained a master's degree in Student Affairs Administration.

The Loft celebrates  
a milestone

Whether it is a business or nonprofit organization, any entity reaching 21 years in business is always great news.

For those who want to help a public cause, The Loft, otherwise known as Friends of The Palmer Public Library, has provided an alternate solution to book buying for over 21 years. Volunteer and President of the Friends of the Palmer Public Library Eleanor Szelachetka said The Loft began as an annual book sale at the Palmer Library.

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AUGUST 2021



Forum for  
homeowners  
afflicted by  
pyrrhotite

The devastating reality homeowners whose houses were built on a foundation of pyrrhotite will be center stage at an upcoming forum.

The activist organization Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations announced a public forum Aug. 28 at Granite Valley School that will include affected homeowners, state lawmakers, a U.S. House member and industry officials.

Michelle Loglisci of Monson, founding member of the Mass-RACC, will open the event.

Pyrrhotite, a mineral used in home foundations for years, is essentially a ticking time bomb when used that way. It reacts poorly to oxygen and moisture, creating rust and cracks in the slowly expanding concrete. It can 10 to 30 years for the cracks to appear. Homeowners throughout the region, including Palmer, Brimfield, and Wales, have homes with pyrrhotite in their foundations. Some are dealing with it, too. Others may not yet be aware.

Community cookout  
at the lake

The Holland Community/Senior Center held a community cookout Aug. 11 at Lake Siog. It was a

perfect summer day, not too hot, for everyone to come together for some afternoon sun and free burgers, hot dog and fixings at the lakeside beach.



Pet of the Month  
Charlie and Murphy

School Committee  
votes to require  
masks indoors

After a lively and productive discussion on how to open safely while the COVID-19 pandemic persists, the Monson School Committee voted 4-1 at a rare Friday meeting to follow CDC guidelines, going beyond Gov. Baker's policy that wearing a mask inside public school buildings is optional.

Staff and students in K-12 will be required to wear a mask when school resumes. The same medical

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## BASKETBALL

### Theriault scores big in Palmer win

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER — As a sophomore, Maddy Theriault scored a career-high 31 points which lead the Palmer Lady Panther to a nine-point season opening victory versus the Mahar Senators.

In the first meeting of this season between the Franklin North Division rivals, the Lady Panthers used a well-balanced offensive attack and a strong defensive effort to defeat the Senators, 62-24, in a home game played last Wednesday night.



Giamorya McTier rises to the occasion with this jump shot.

"We lost a tough game at Hampshire Regional the other night and we made some costly mistakes. We did make a couple of adjustments in tonight's game, which worked out very well for us," said Palmer co-head coach Amanda Theriault. "We also want every player on our team to be a scoring threat this year. We don't want to rely on only one or two players."

A total of nine players scored at least two points in the home victory led by Maddy Theriault. The senior guard scored nine of her game-high 15 points during the second half. The Lady Panthers other two double figure scorers were junior forward Giamorya McTier (14 points) and eighth grade guard Charlotte Theriault (13 points).

"Everyone had the opportunity to play in tonight's game," said Palmer co-head coach Denise Levasseur. "We had nine players who scored, which is beautiful. A coach can't ask for anything more than that."

Rounding out the scoring column for Palmer, who didn't face Mahar a year ago, were freshman guard Jayda Pardo (5 points), senior guard Allanah Wood (4 points), sophomore guard Vanessa Baer (4 points), senior guard Mia Murray (3 points), sophomore for-



Charlotte Theriault brings the ball down court.

Photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com

THERIAULT | page 7

## TRACK



Indoor track is in danger now that Smith College will not allow high school teams in the region to use its facility.

### Indoor track season in danger after Smith pulls out

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — The indoor track season is in serious jeopardy heading into the New Year.

Last week, Smith College informed the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference that meets could no longer be held at their facility due to COVID-19 concerns from the recent surge in Delta/Omicron cases.

PVIAC Executive Secretary Lou Conte confirmed the news last week, and said he is working fever-

ishly to find alternate arrangements to hold more meets.

"I have no doubt Lou will do whatever he can to try and find ways for us to hold meets," said Agawam indoor track coach Dan Pryce.

Last year, due to the pandemic and the lack of facilities available for use, indoor track was held outdoors, with several meets scheduled during the early spring, which was the time for the "Fall 2" season. Agawam, which has an artificial turf field and track surface, was able to hold the outdoor meets,



The PVIAC is seeking alternatives to keep the season going. File photos

though the weather was questionable at times.

Pryce said Conte and other schools are attempting to try and hold modified meets at other locations that do not have full facilities, but could accommodate some events.

"Places with larger gymnasiums like West Springfield and Minnechaug have been mentioned if we cannot find a place," Pryce said last week. "But we are just starting to work on this so nothing has been confirmed."

Pryce said his indoor track

team participated in an outdoor meet earlier in the month with Minnechaug and East Longmeadow.

Teams participated in one Sunday meet at Smith College in December, but the school pulled the plug after that, not wanting any outside organizations using its facilities for fear of COVID-19 spread.

"We have looked around at different options and we have not been able to find anything so far," said Conte.

TRACK | page 8

## HIGH SCHOOL

### New sectional tournament successful, but will need tweaks

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

While COVID-19 surges are creating some fear in the winter season, the fall sports season was able to occur with no interference at all from the virus and its continued variant spreads.

Western Mass. got some things right as it adjusted to a brand-new tournament format that it did not even have a chance to get used to due to the pandemic.

When the new state tournament was voted on in early 2020, officials planned to have one season of regional tournaments as well as having extensive open discussions about the new state tournament. But the pandemic limited those discussions as meetings went far between as well as virtual.



Palmer girls soccer won the inaugural Class C championship thanks to the PVIAC keeping the Western Mass. tournament tradition alive. File photos

There were also no tournaments due to the pandemic, with the fall and winter sports teams last year playing regionalized schedules based on geography rather than trying to play schedules tailored to

a school's competition level.

The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference pulled through, however, and was able to arrange a newly-minted Western Massachusetts Tournament in field

hockey, boys and girls soccer, and girls volleyball. Regional championships also took place in golf and cross country, continuing a tradition many in Western Mass. have always loved and enjoyed.

While championships were played in high school fields like Agawam, Holyoke, Pope Francis, and Central instead of colleges like Westfield State, or other larger venues. The feel of the sectional tournament continued to be special and carry on an important tradition. But the PVIAC is not done working on the tournament format.

"We still have to look at the formulas so that teams are not being unfairly excluded," said PVIAC Executive Secretary Lou Conte.

Due to the timeline with the state tournament, regular seasons

TOURN | page 8

## SWIMMING



Annabelle Tulloch competes in the backstroke.

### Girls swimming starts out 2-1

MONSON — The Monson High School girls swimming team has started out the regular season with a 2-1 record. Their two wins have come against Turners Falls and Chicopee while the Mustangs

fell to Amherst last Monday. In the win over Chicopee on Dec. 15, Emily Roberts won the 200 and 500 freestyle events for the Mustangs. Monson faces West Springfield on Jan. 3.



Emily Roberts competes a leg in the 500 freestyle.



Isabella Zeppa emerges in the breaststroke event.



Natalie Bruneau extends in the fly event.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Veronica Quimet competes in a race during Monson's swim meet at Chicopee last week.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Region adjusts after Springfield announces sports 'pause'

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — Just when Western Massachusetts high school sports looked to be back on track after a successful fall season, COVID-19 came back around to rear its ugly head.

Thought the region closes 2021 in a bit of a nervous situation, hope springs eternal that winter sports will continue to be played on schedule with little interruption.

In the region, fear among some

was spurred last Monday when the Springfield Public Schools announced a pause on the winter sports season.

The word "pause" has been used by numerous municipalities and other organizations to represent a stop in activity to allow for COVID-19 cases to get under control. But "pauses" have lasted for weeks or months in many cases.

Springfield's pause is being evaluated as officials hope to get

HIGH SCHOOL | page 8





Submitted photo

More than 500 toys were donated to area children by the Springfield Thunderbirds, which held a toy drive on Dec. 18.

## T-Birds donate to Toys-for-Tots

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds held their annual Toys for Tots drive on Saturday night, in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps. T-Birds staff, players, and fans donated more than 500 toys, which will directly benefit underprivileged youth this holiday season. Donations were collected prior to the Thunderbirds' home game against the Hartford Wolf Pack on the MassMutual Center concourse.

"We are honored to support the Marines in this most generous holiday tradition," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "The Thunderbirds share similar values to those of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation; anytime we as a community can help bring a smile to a kid's face around the holiday season, that impact is simply immeasurable."

The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is to assist the U. S. Marine Corps in providing a tangible sign

of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. This assistance includes providing day-to-day leadership and oversight of the Program, raising funds to provide toys to supplement the collections of local Toys for Tots Campaigns, to provide promotional and support material and defray the costs of conducting annual Toys for Tots Campaigns. Other Foundation support includes providing administrative, advisory, financial, logistic and promotional support to local Toys for Tots Coordinators; managing funds raised and monies donated based on the use of Toys for Tots name or logo; providing other support the Marine Corps, as a federal agency, cannot provide; and conducting public education and information programs about Toys for Tots that call the general public to action in support of this patriotic community action program.

### HIGH SCHOOL | from page 7

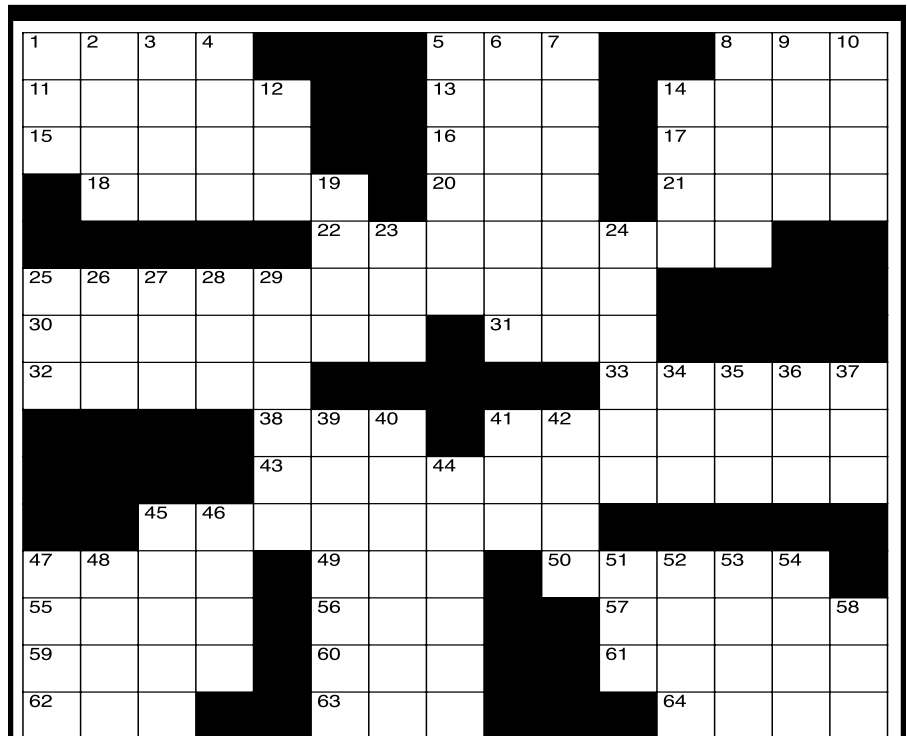
sports action back going after the new year.

There is a ripple effect for the rest of the teams in the region. Teams like Agawam, Minnechaug, Ludlow, and Holyoke regularly play teams from Springfield. Smaller schools like Palmer, Monson, Belchertown, Granby, and South Hadley also sometimes see the smaller schools from the city.

Springfield is host to Central, Commerce, Sci-Tech, Sabies, and Putnam.

Following Monday, Springfield's games were cancelled Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with all teams throughout the area off for the Christmas weekend. Limited action was set to take place this week with some teams only scheduled for a game or two between Christmas and New Year's. Full action typically resumes following the New Year's holiday.

Following Springfield's announcement, several schools, including Agawam and Palmer, said they were not intending to postpone any games or make any changes to current policies due to the COVID-19 surge. Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive did postpone a couple of games late last week, with Athletic Director Sean Mackin stating it was due to COVID-19 protocols without being more specific.



#### CLUES ACROSS

- Loud cheer
- Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- Type of cell
- Oblong pulpits
- Pitching statistic
- Uncommon
- Liabilities
- Thin, straight bar
- Oh goodness!
- Competitions
- \_\_\_ Jima, WW II battlefield
- Professional assn. (abbr.)
- Italian mountain range
- Taking possession of
- Used in cooking and medicine
- Water (French)
- Parent a child
- Sun-dried brick
- One point south of

#### CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Passover offering
- Swedish rock group
- due east
- Female fashion accessory
- A way of making a copy of
- A way to debilitate
- Wings
- Social insect
- Dull brown fabrics
- Indian musical pattern
- N. England university
- Portable stands for coffins
- Iranian district
- Envision
- Passerine bird genus
- Container
- Falter
- Tunisian city

- Collegiate military organization
- Large nests
- Beloved baked good
- 1980s pop legend
- Finger millet
- Hillside
- Surrender
- Midway between south and southeast
- Long, narrow strap
- Discount
- A type of cast
- Large, tropical lizard
- Half of "Mili Vanilli"
- Single
- Big truck
- Midway between east and southeast
- Et \_\_\_ indicates further
- Insecticide
- Luke Skywalker's mentor \_\_\_-Wan

- Cast out
- Breakfast food
- By reason of
- One who makes thread
- Baseball stat
- Breezed through
- Frothy mass of bubbles
- Tony-winning actress
- Daisy
- Made of fermented honey and water
- Member of a Semitic people
- Monetary unit of the Maldives
- Run batted in
- Makes publicly known
- Disagreement
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Single-reed instrument

## Hall announces eligible for Class of 2022

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2022, including numerous high-profile first-time nominees including Manu Ginobili, Tom Chambers and Lindsey Whalen, as well as candidates who have previously been on the ballot in Chauncey Billups and Swin Cash.

A first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by NBA Today on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, Richard Jefferson, Chiney Ogumike and Zach Lowe. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

A press conference announcing the Finalists from the North American and Women's committee for the Class of 2022 will be held during NBA All-Star Weekend, which is scheduled for Friday, February 18th in Cleveland, Ohio. The Hall of Fame will also reveal the full Enshrinement schedule at this time. The entire Class of 2022, including those selected by the direct elect committees, will be unveiled during the NCAA Final Four in New Orleans, Louisiana, in early April.

The Enshrinement ceremony will take place in Springfield, Mass., September 9-10, 2022. Tickets for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2022 Enshrinement ceremony and various events surrounding the ceremony will be on-sale at a later date.

For the latest news and updates, follow @hoophall on Twitter and Instagram.

### TOURNY | from page 7

were concluded a week early, and only a limited number of teams qualified for the sectional tournament. The formula used for the teams who qualified was based on a power rankings system much like how the old Walker system was used. The new system is different and teams that finished with a .500 record or better were not necessarily guaranteed a spot.

Strength-of-schedule was one of the factors utilized in the formula. Due to the formula, a team like Belchertown, which finished with 14 wins, and East Longmeadow, which also had a strong season in field hockey, were left out of the sectional tournament.

"I got a lot of angry calls from people about the team being left out," said Conte.

South Hadley High School boys soccer coach Eric Castonguay also agreed the tournament format and formula will need some fine-tuning.

"My team was not ranked well for the Western Mass. tournament and we did not get in," said Castonguay. "But we had a home game in the state tournament."

The PVIAC is planning to have sectional tournaments this winter for basketball and hockey. MIAA-sponsored tournaments are scheduled for wrestling and swimming.

### TRACK | from page 7

Among the locations considered were some of the local colleges, as well as Tantasqua Regional High School, which has the gym facilities to host indoor track. Tantasqua hosts many Central Mass. teams for indoor track during the regular season.

"Tantasqua is not letting any other outside organizations use their facilities at this time," said Conte.

Pryce said the indoor track season is on hold though there is at least one meet scheduled to be held at Wheaton College next month as well as the invitational meets at the Reggie Lewis Center. Pryce said the meets held out east only allow a limited number of competitors to enter and thus some of his athletes are left behind.

"The whole situation is really unfortunate for all of the teams," said Pryce.

Smith College almost did not allow meets to happen this year prior to the COVID issues being prevalent. But after being re-approached, Conte was able to secure the facility for a few meets. Meets were scheduled to be held on Sundays instead of the traditional Friday meets being held in previous years.

## NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

### AUGUST | from page 6

exceptions remain from the past year. No one will need to wear a mask outside and students who ask to go outside for mask break, will be accommodated.

Board member Alison Morgan was the lone "no" vote at the Aug. 13 meeting after explaining she believes in wearing a mask, but considers a broad range of issues, including her speech therapy background and how it can affect some students. Board member Jackie Watts said seeing the metrics changed his mind.

## Friends advance medicine with robotic transplant

There's much buddies TJ Pascale and Owen Shaw want to do together. Not long ago though, time wasn't a luxury. That changed because a friendship refused to let a rare disease take one of them much, much too soon.



Pascale, 24 of Palmer, and Shaw, 19, of Wales, were just kids when they first met, playing in the hallways of Monson High School. Pascale's life took an unexpected turn when he was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis in July 2015, just after graduation. Shaw offered to be a living organ donor. By the end of last May,

Shaw and Pascale had gone through all the testing and were officially a match and set for surgery at the end of July. Pascale's surgery was a historical moment for LHMC with a procedure that was the first robotic living donor left hepatic lobectomy in North America.

## Turleysports

### Athlete of the Week



### Emily Roberts Monson

Roberts won a pair of freestyle events for Monson girls swimming in a win over Chicopee on Dec. 15.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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### THERIAULT | from page 7

ward Jordan Bigda (2 points), and junior guard Gwen Dugan (2 points).

"We do have a young team this year," coach Theriault said. "It's the first time that most of the players are competing at the varsity level."

Freshman forward Madison Rathbone, who's normal a member of the Lady Panthers junior varsity squad, played in her first varsity game against the Senators (1-3). She didn't score any points. Freshman Loretta Petrasiewicz also played in the game.

The home victory improved the Lady Panthers overall record to 3-1 and it was their first league contest of the regular season.

The Lady Panthers, who raced out to a 18-0 lead, didn't allow Mahar to score any points during the first quarter.

Following a steal by Charlotte Theriault, she knocked down a 3-pointer from the left side a couple of minutes into the opening quarter. Then Murray buried a 3-pointer from the opposite side of the court increasing the Lady Panthers lead to 6-0.

After an inside hoop by McTier, Maddy Theriault scored Palmer's next four points on a putback and two made free throws.

Another inside hoop by Baer, and a putback by Wood closed out the first quarter scoring for the Lady Panthers.

Palmer held an 18-0 lead two minutes into the second quarter before Mahar finally got on the scoreboard when senior guard Natalie Belloli (6 points) made a 3-pointer.

Junior guard Kendra Doane, who finished the contest with a team-leading 12 points, scored the Senators other five points during the second quarter.

The Lady Panthers, who also scored eight points in the second stanza, held a commanding 24-8 halftime lead.



Maddy Theriault sneaks through the 'opening' eyeing exactly where she's going.

Palmer was leading 41-11 following a 3-pointer from the left corner by Pardo, which capped off a 15-0 run, with three minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Doane scored her team's next six points with the help of two old fashion three-point plays.

The Lady Panthers, who entered the fourth quarter with a 41-17 advantage, outscored the Senators, 19-7, during the final eight minutes of the contest.

McTier and Maddy Theriault, who are the Lady Panthers only returning starters, combined to score the first 13 points of the fourth quarter. Palmer's final three field goals were made by Dugan, Pardo, and Wood.

Palmer is scheduled to visit Mahar Regional, which is in Orange, on January 24.

## Trapped by tree toppled by Henri

Hurricane Henri, downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it hit our area, packed much less of a punch than forecast. However, the storm did bring a weekend of rain and last Sunday, the Palmer Fire Department responded to a call at the intersection of Longview and Buckland Streets, where a tree fell on a car, trapping the driver inside.

## New Pathfinder principal ready to lead

With over 20 years of experience in the field education and a passion for helping and working with students, staff and families, the new Principal of Pathfinder Tech, Carrie Auffrey, is ready to lead her school forward.



## DEATH NOTICES

**Verna (Roberge) Besaw, 85**  
Died: Dec. 19, 2021  
Services will be private



## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## O B I T U A R I E S

### Verna (Roberge) Besaw, 85

BONDSVILLE — Verna (Roberge) Besaw, 85, passed away at home after a long illness on Dec. 19, 2021.

She was born March 2, 1936 and was a graduate of Palmer High School, Class of 1954. Verna worked in direct care at Monson Developmental Center until her retirement. She is survived by her sisters, Theresa King of Palmer, Joyce Raymond of Littleton, N.H., Jane Gammon and Patricia Mills of Waterville, Maine. Verna also leaves her children, Patricia Mayberry of Thorndike, Robin Sherman

and David Besaw of Bondsville and Donna Corey of Lake Wales, Fla. as well as grandchildren Shannon Concepcion, Lori Czech, and Bruce Bacon. Her great-grandchildren, Cienna Hiersche, Alex Czech, Bryce and Cameron Mayberry, Baya, Zeph and Wilder Bacon, also survive her.

She was predeceased by a brother, Albert Roberge and her sons, James and Roger Corey. All services will be pri-



vate at this time and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Beers & Story Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church, 1060 Central Church, 1060 Central St, Palmer MA 01069 would be deeply appreciated by the family. For details, visit beersandstory.com.

## Police/Fire

### Fire Logs

#### BONDSVILLE

*The Bondsville fire Department responded to three calls for the period Dec. 21-27:*

On Thursday, Dec. 23 at 4:48 p.m., the department responded to Pine Street for the odor of propane or gas. Nothing was found and the department returned to service at 5:17 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 24 at 5:33 p.m., the department responded to Thorndike Street for a carbon monoxide detector activation. The department returned to service at 5:46 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 25 at 10:21 a.m., the department responded to High Street for the medical assist. The department returned to service at 10:49 a.m.

#### MONSON

*The Monson Fire Department responded to nine fire calls and 30 EMS calls Dec. 20-26:*

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 12 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Butler Road. The department returned to service at 12:05 a.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 10:39 p.m., the department responded to an EMS assistance call on Boston Road. The department returned to service at 11:47 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 5:33 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Ely Road. The department returned to service at 6:19 a.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 7:07 a.m., the department responded to an EMS assistance call on Lakeside Drive. The department returned to service at 8:32 a.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 23, at 3:16 a.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide activation in a place of residence. The department returned to service at 3:55 a.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 25, at 11:26 a.m., the department responded to an EMS assistance call on Bumstead Road. The department returned to service at 1:18 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 26, at 1:45 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation Country Club Heights. The department returned to service at 2:39 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 26, at 7:34 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Butler Road. The department returned to service at 8:49 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 26, at 5 p.m., the department responded to a public assistance call on Bethany Road. The department returned to service at 5:30 p.m.

## OCTOBER 2021



**Pet of the Month  
Tito**

### Task force offering self-defense class

To help keep victims and potential victims of domestic violence safe, the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force offered a self-defense class on Oct. 2.

The Palmer DVTF provides education and awareness on domestic violence, while also providing support and resources to those who have been affected by it. The organization consists of business owners, survivors and allies and is supported by a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This upcoming self-defense class is one of the DVTF's attempts to reach and educate their community.

Palmer DVTF Manager Emily Skoczylas said this class came together after martial arts coach and anti-bullying author Kevin Kearns, who will be leading the class, learned about the task force and wanted to collaborate.

### Residents get a say in Monson's open space plan

Although there was a small crowd at the Monson Open Space and Recreation Plan Forum, a large amount of information was shared at the meeting.

Members of the OSRP Committee came to not only provide information on the plan but allow residents to voice their ideas and ask questions. The OSRP is assessing the town's open space, natural resources, cultural and historic resources, and recreational facilities. As for open space itself, Senior

Planner of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Mimi Kaplan said it can be used for a variety of things.

"It could be forest land, conservation land, and agricultural land, any kind of athletic fields, playgrounds, parks, small parks, public parks (and) sometimes green buffers along roadways," Kaplan said.

### Service will honor founder of New Birth Church

When the Rev. William Webb Sr. passed on New Year's Day at age 84, a virtual service was streamed from the church he founded. It was far from how Rev. Webb's family and congregation wanted to pay their last respects, but it was the best that could be managed during the height of the pandemic.

Now, they can finally celebrate his memory and say their goodbyes properly.

New Birth, at 4025 Church Street in Thorndike, will hold its long-awaited in-person service for Rev. Webb at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 10.

Born Oct. 15, 1936, in Chester, Rev. Webb, at age 40, came to Bondsville in 1976, the year he, and his wife, the late Charlotte Webb, founded New Birth Christian Church. His son, William Webb Jr., is now senior pastor at the church.

### Lights of Hope remembers, promotes support

One of the tragedies of addiction is the countless number of addicts — and those around them — who suffer in isolation.

It doesn't have to be that way. That's one reason The Addict's Mom organization was formed. The Monson chapter recently held a public event at Veterans Field called Lights of Hope that was much more than the name implies. Held by chapters nationwide in late September, which is National Recovery Month, Lights of Hope did end with a candlelight vigil to remember those lost to addiction. Before that, attendees were able to find support, learn about resources, and hear several speakers, such as Pamela West, who is part of the Monson Substance Abuse Partnership.



### Folks from local towns work together to solve mystery

Cheyenne Lowell Sr. finds lost things. He had no idea that his hobby would eventually lead him to find a baby spoon dated 1910 and bring people from all over together on social media to help find its family. Lowell, of Wales, got into metal detecting by watching the TV show Diggers on the Nation Geographic Channel.

He never knows what piece of history he will dig from the ground.

"One of my greatest finds was a coin that turned out to be a brothel token," Lowell said. This year, "I came upon a pile of silverware and discovered one had writing on it."

When Lowell got the spoon home and cleaned it up further, he discovered that it was the baby spoon of Robert Eddy, dating 1910. Lowell decided to post pictures of the antique spoon on the Wales town Facebook page to see if anyone knew of the person it had originally belonged to so he could return it to his relatives. It didn't take long for the post to become a community effort to get the spoon back to its family. Eventually, the trail led to Megan Ramsden several states away. Turns out the spoon was a family heirloom.

[journalregister.turley.com](http://journalregister.turley.com)

## SEPTEMBER 2021



**Pet of the Month  
Charlie**

### New school year begins

Labor Day weekend came a little late this year, but local students returned to school on time and were eager to begin a new year without many of the restrictions with which the prior year ended. Pathfinder Regional actually began its new school a week earlier than most, followed by Monson the next Monday and Palmer and Tantasqua on Tuesday.

### A chance to help shape the town's future

All residents of Palmer and the surrounding villages were invited to participate in a Public Visioning Session to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan on Sept. 28. Sarah Fortune, the town's interim conservation agent, is among those working to update Palmer's Open



Space and Recreation Plan, which is renewed every seven years.

"Essentially, the open space plan helps guide the town's development and growth and helps inform needs and desires and opportunity for open pace in the seven-year time period," Fortune said.

It's an opportunity for residents to share their own personal wish list for what they would like to see the town address.

### Indoor mask mandate discussed as COVID cases rise

After periods of stabilization and decline, COVID-19 cases are on the rise in local towns. According to Mayo Clinic, Hampden County has an average rate of 186 cases daily. Numbers published online at mass.gov show Ludlow has a 5.96% positivity rate based on over 2,700 tests in the past two weeks.

Comparatively, Chicopee has a positivity rate of 5.13% based on nearly 2,300 tests and Monson's rate is 6.55% on 809 tests. The rate in Palmer is 4.44% for 1,351 tested and in West Springfield it's 4.66% based on 3,259 tests. In other area towns, Brimfield's rate is 4.65% (344 people tested) and the rate in Wales is 10.45% (134).

Statewide, the daily positivity rate is 2.24% over the past two weeks.



### Backyard bee dispute moves back to ZBA

The Monson Zoning Board of Appeals is the next venue where an on-going tug of war between neighbors over backyard bee keeping continues.

A Sept. 23 public hearing would be a mulligan for the town and resident Roxanne Gunther, who has been trying to arrange the hearing since June. She and neighbors Tammy Lee McCaffrey and James O'Connell, who are bee keepers, have been sparring over the latter's colonies and other issues to the point that a special town meeting was called earlier this month in an attempt to settle the issue.

At Gunther's request — and expense — the ZBA held a meeting last June to consider the issue of how bee keeping is regulated in town, if at all, but it tuned out not to technically be considered a public hearing in part because Gunther wasn't aware of all of the requirements, including pay-

ing for a published hearing notice. She tried again and a hearing was scheduled for August and this time, Gunther checked all the boxes. Unfortunately, because of an internal error at this newspaper, the hearing notice was not published in time.

Gunther is hoping the third time's the charm. The hearing is an appeal of an earlier decision by a town zoning enforcement officer to allow O'Connell to keep bees at the Whitney Ave. home he shares with McCaffrey.



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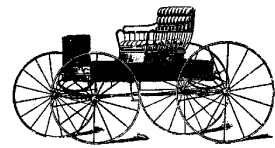
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**800 SQ. FT.** with easy access. Good  
for storage etc. Also have approxi-  
mately 1600 Sq. Ft. unit with street  
level entrance. Call **(413)967-7772**  
for more information. Reasonable rent.

## REAL ESTATE

## FOR RENT



**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised  
herein is subject to the Federal Fair  
Housing Act, which makes it illegal to  
advertise "any preference, limitation,  
or discrimination because of race, col-  
or, religion, sex, handicap, familial sta-  
tus, or national origin, or intention to  
make any such preference, limitation,  
or discrimination." We will not knowl-  
ingly accept any advertising for real es-  
tate which is in violation of the law. All  
persons are hereby informed that all  
dwellings advertised are available on  
an equal opportunity basis.

## HILLSIDE VILLAGE APARTMENTS

**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING**  
**ACCEPTED FOR ONE, TWO**  
**AND THREE BEDROOM**  
**APARTMENTS**

\*Heat and hot water included  
\*Ample Closets  
\*Fully Appliance  
\*Community Room  
\*Laundry Facilities  
\*Cats Welcome  
\*Extra Storage  
\*24 Hour Maintenance  
For Information call  
**(413)967-7755 EHO**

17 Convent Hill,  
Ware, MA



## STORAGE

**SECURE STORAGE** Winter Spe-  
cial. Rent a 5'x10' 2 months payment  
up front, 3rd month free. Call Mary  
**(413)531-3722**

## FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this  
newspaper is subject to the Federal  
Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes  
it illegal to advertise any preference,  
limitation or discrimination based on  
race, color, religion, sex, handicap,  
familial status (number of children and  
or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,  
age, marital status, or any intention to  
make any such preference, limitation or  
discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept  
any advertising for real estate that is in  
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby  
informed that all dwellings advertising in  
this newspaper are available on an equal  
opportunity basis. To complain about  
discrimination call The Department of  
Housing and Urban Development " HUD"  
toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.  
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll  
free number for the hearing impaired is  
1-800-927-9275.

# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

**MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069**  
or call: 413-283-8393

### DEADLINES:

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON**  
**HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON**

## CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price

Add a second ZONE

Add a third ZONE

Subtotal

x Number of Weeks

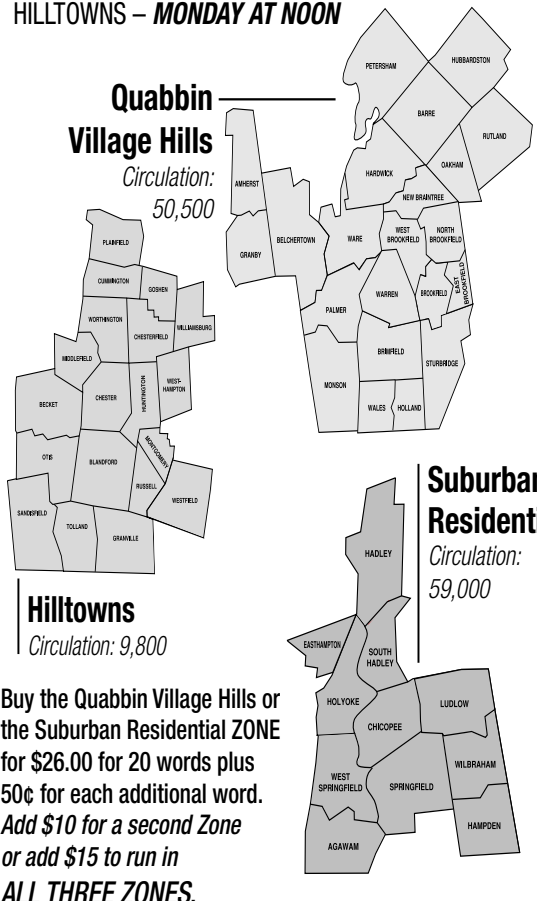
TOTAL Enclosed

Includes additional words

\$10.00

\$5.00

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

☐ Quabbin☐ Suburban☐ Hilltowns

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or  
the Suburban Residential ZONE  
for \$26.00 for 20 words plus  
50¢ for each additional word.  
Add \$10 for a second Zone  
or add \$15 to run in  
**ALL THREE ZONES.**

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

## SNOW PLOW CONTRACTORS WANTED 2021-2022 WINTER SEASON

The Town of Wilbraham Department of Public Works  
is seeking contractors for the 2021-2022 Winter Season.

Interested contractors can obtain the  
2021-2022 Plowing application form at  
**https://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/188/Highway**

Please submit completed form by email at  
**DPWnotify@wilbraham-ma.gov**

or you can drop off completed forms to  
the Public Works office located at

**Town Hall 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham MA 01095.**

Should you have any questions

please contact the Department of Public Works office at  
**413-596-2800 x208**

everyone shines  
**SUNSHINE VILLAGE**

## Come Join Our Team

## Job Title: Direct Support Professional

### Location:

Three Rivers, MA

### Hours:

35 hours/week - Monday through Friday 8:30am-3:30pm

### Educational Requirements:

High School Diploma/ GED/or Equivalent

### Other Requirements:

Ability to lift 30 lbs. comfortably, a valid driver's license and a  
reliable vehicle.

### Job Summary:

Development and implementation of active treatment and  
habilitation programs for individuals with developmental  
disabilities. The ideal candidate will be a positive role model with  
good communication skills who can work alone and as a team.

### Salary:

\$15.50/hour to start, \$15.90 upon completion of introductory  
period (90 days)

### Benefits:

Health, Dental, Vision, 401K w/match, LTD, EAP, PTO

Accepting applications at

75 Litwin Lane, Chicopee, MA 01020.

**AA/EOE. Sunshine Village is a great place to work!**

**Premiere**  
*Staffing Services*  
INC.

## WE ARE HIRING!!!!

Our companies are in search of  
several entry level manufacturing positions!!

Various locations including Springfield, Holyoke,  
Hatfield, Chicopee, Agawam, Greenfield –  
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**ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE!**

Some of our open positions:

- Assemblers
- Production Assistants
- Packers
- Warehouse
- Drivers
- Forklift Operators
- Selectors
- Operators

\*\*\*\*\*Call us today and start working tomorrow\*\*\*\*\*

**413-552-3333**

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



# Free small business legal clinic at WNEU accepting applications

SPRINGFIELD —The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the spring semester 2022.

Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with legal issues including choice of entity, em-

ployment policies, contract drafting, regulatory compliance, and intellectual property issues relating to trademark applications and copy-right. This is a free service available to local businesses that might not have the resources to obtain such services.

The Small Business Clinic has assisted more than 500 small busi-

nesses since it opened. “The Clinic is a great resource for entrepreneurs who lack the finances to retain an attorney,” explained Associate Clinical Professor of Law Robert Statchen.

“By using the Clinic’s services, businesses can avoid problems by getting legal issues addressed early and correctly. It also provides stu-

dents with a great opportunity to get real world experience.”

The Clinic requests small business owners to submit their applications by Jan. 1, 2022. Applications received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available. Students will begin providing services in late January. For more information, call the Le-

gal Clinic at 413-782-1469 or email Marie Fletcher, Clinical Programs Administrator at [mfletcher@law.wne.edu](mailto:mfletcher@law.wne.edu).

The School of Law Small Business Legal Clinic was established to afford law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing

small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens alliances within the community by using the resources of the University to foster new business development. For more information or to complete an online application, visit [www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm](http://www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm).

## Public notices

### Town of Monson Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 40A, M.G.L. s11, the Monson Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing **Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** in the public meeting room, Town Office Building, 110 Main Street, to review a petition for a Special Permit for an Estate Lot as provided by Section 6.5 of the Monson Zoning Bylaws from Evergreen Design Build, Inc. said property is zoned Rural Residential and is located on Munn Road identified on Assessors Map 155 Parcel 5A as shown on a plan prepared by Durkee, White, Towne and Chapdelaine Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors dated 11/20/2021. The plan also creates two standard lots. A copy of the application is on file with the Planning Board and available for viewing during regular office hours.

Craig Sweitzer, Chairman  
12/30/2021, 01/06/2022

### TOWN OF WALES LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 40A §10 & §11, the **Wales Zoning Board of Appeals** will hold a **Public Hearing on January 10th, 2022, at the Wales Town Offices at 6:00 PM**, on the application of Frank LaRosa, of 7 Cordially Colony, for a variance in terms of the Town of Wales Zoning By-law Sec. 4. 2.. The Town of Wales Zoning By-Law Sec. 8.5 states “The Zoning Board of Appeals may authorize upon appeal, or upon petition with respect to particular land or structures, a variance from the terms of this Bylaw”. Specifically, the applicant wishes to construct a 26 x 22’garage. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website ([www.townofwales.net](http://www.townofwales.net)) under zoning board agenda for the above date to participate virtually. If you have any questions or concerns, please email: [planning@townofwales.net](mailto:planning@townofwales.net) 12/23, 12/30/2021

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 77 May Hill Road, Monson, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joseph L. Begin and Patricia E. Begin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company LLC, said mortgage dated July 24, 2006, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, in Book 16145 at Page 564 and now held by U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT by virtue of an assignment from J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT, dated August

7, 2018 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22313, Page 346, previously assigned by U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust, to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp. by virtue of an assignment dated August 16, 2017 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22036, Page 80, previously assigned by HSBC Mortgage Services Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by virtue of an assignment dated February 9, 2015 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20598, Page 537, previously assigned by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, to HSBC Mortgage Services Inc. by virtue of an assignment dated March 20, 2013 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19737, Page 15, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at Public Auction on **January 25, 2022 at 12:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land referred to in this policy is situated in the STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, COUNTY OF HAMPDEN, CITY OF MONSON, and described as follows:

THE LAND ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF MAY HILL ROAD IN MONSON, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BEING SHOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT #1 ON A PLAN BY LEWIS & COOK SURVEYORS, INC., ENTITLED “PLAN OF LAND IN MONSON, MASS. SURVEYED FOR CHESTER E. HULSE” DATED JULY 29, 1988, RECORDED WITH HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 259, PAGE 93, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY BOUND AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

WESTERLY BY LOT #2, AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, 258.47 FEET;

NORTHERLY BY SAID LOT #2, 240.54 FEET; EASTERLY BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF D.J. GUNTHER ET UX, 258.4 FEET; AND

SOUTHERLY BY MAY HILL ROAD, AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, 240.54 FEET.

Being all of that certain property conveyed to JOSEPH L. BEGIN AND PATRICIA E. BEGIN from PATRICIA E. BEGIN, by deed dated 02/07/02 in Deed Book 12148, Page 506 of official records.

The description of the property that appears in the mortgage to be foreclosed shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors’ Title see deed dated February 7, 2002, and recorded in Book 12148 at Page 506 with the Hampden County Registry

of Deeds.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within sixty (60) days after the date of sale.

**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**

BENDETT & MCHUGH, PC  
270 Farmington Avenue  
Farmington, CT 06032  
Attorney for U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(860) 677-2868  
12/30/2021, 1/06/2022, 1/13/2022

### LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:20 PM Remotely**. Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the repair or upgrade of an existing leaching facility within the existing lawn area on property identified on the Monson Assessors Map 138 Parcel 27, 81 Wales Road, Monson MA. is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Property owner is Helen Klisiewicz, Life Estate the applicant is Ronald Klisiewicz.

Submitted by:  
Monson Conservation Commission  
**Login:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82499546590?pwd=OWRta0N4dUNwbzhQZFFiN1Rtd09Cdz09Dial:1.646.558.8656>  
**Meeting ID:** 824 9954 6590  
**Password:** 686627  
12/30/2021

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

**Docket No. HD21P2396EA Estate of: Mark A. Davis Also known as: Mark Davis, Mark Alan Davis Date of Death: 10/23/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Laura**

**A. Davis of Palmer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Laura A. Davis of Palmer, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on 01/14/2022.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: December 17, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/30/2021

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

**Docket No. HD21P2408EA Estate of: Joanne Eleanor Hendricks-Baker Also known as: Joanne Eleanor Hendricks Date of Death: 11/25/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by Jelani A. N. Pinnock of Lakewood, OH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Jelani A. N. Pinnock** of Lakewood, OH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond

in **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:**

**10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/18/2022.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

**A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: December 20, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/30/2021

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ethan Kean to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Merrimack Mortgage Company, Inc., dated May 26, 2009 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17805, Page 277, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated November 1, 2018, and recorded with said Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 22414, Page 574 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as nominee for Merrimack Mortgage Company, Inc., its successors and assigns to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on May 14, 2012, in Book No. 19255, at Page 267

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **4:00 PM on January 19, 2022**, on the mortgaged premises located at 31 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,  
TO WIT:

The land and building thereon in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows: Shown as Lot number three on a plan entitled, “Plan of Land in Brimfield, Massachusetts surveyed for Thaddeus J. Jr. & Kathleen D. Cembura” dated July 30, 2002 by Lewis & Cook Surveyors, Inc. Belchertown-Palmer, MA, which said plan is recorded in the Hampden District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 326, Plan 85; Beginning at an iron pipe on the easterly line of Sturbridge Road which is the southwesterly corner of said lot; Thence N. 19° 06’ 28” E. 150.00 feet along the line of Sturbridge Road to an iron pipe; Thence S. 76° 37’ 56” E. 20.80 feet to an iron pipe; Thence S. 18° 24’ 44” W. 48.67 feet to an iron pipe; Thence S. 71° 35’ 16” E. 44.75 feet to an iron pipe; Thence N. 18° 24’ 44” E. 60.55 feet to an iron pipe; Thence S. 85° 36’ 08” E. 281.75 feet to an iron pipe; Thence S. 15° 20’ 45” W. 247.05 feet to an iron pipe; Thence N. 69° 11’ 50” W. 354.17 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 66,000 square feet more or less Being the same premises conveyed to mortgagor by deed recorded herewith.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17805, Page 275.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

**TERMS OF SALE:**

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

**Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.**

**JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.**

Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
**HARMON LAW OFFICES,**  
P.C.

150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
17805  
12/23, 12/30/2021, 1/06/2022

### LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due: **NISSAN VIN:1N4AASAXDC816539 Daniel Knapp 2052 Main ST RM39 Three Rivers, MA; SUBARU VIN:4S4BP61C476344532 Jacob Chapman 26 Bouden ST Palmer, MA; FORD VIN:1FTNX21L72EB96269 Yves Lachance 147 Jim Ash RD Bondsville, MA; FORD VIN:2FACP71W23X171734 Alexander Phaneuf 70 Bradway RD Monson, MA.** This auction is to take place on January 7, 2022, 10:00 A.M. at LaBonte’s & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069 12/23, 12/30/2021, 01/06/2022

### LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:30 PM Remotely**. Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the construction of a single family home with a lawn, driveway and associated utilities on property identified on the Monson Assessors as Lot 1 Margaret Street Map 92 Parcel 006A Monson, MA. is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Property owner is Bretta Construction LLC.

Submitted by:  
Monson Conservation Commission

**Login:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82499546590?pwd=OWRta0N4dUNwbzhQZFFiN1Rtd09Cdz09Dial:1.646.558.8656>  
**Meeting ID:** 824 9954 6590  
**Password:** 686627  
12/30/2021

### LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:40 PM Remotely**. Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the construction of a single family home with a lawn, driveway and associated utilities on property identified on the Monson Assessors as Lot 8 Margaret Street Map 92 Parcel 006H Monson, MA. is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Property owner is Bretta Construction LLC.

Submitted by:  
Monson Conservation Commission

**Login:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82499546590?pwd=OWRta0N4dUNwbzhQZFFiN1Rtd09Cdz09Dial:1.646.558.8656>  
**Meeting ID:** 824 9954 6590  
**Password:** 686627  
12/30/2021

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

**Docket No. HD21P2376EA Estate of: Angela Marie Lovett Also known as: Angela M Lovett Date of Death: 11/08/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joanna G Sorreiro** of Brunswick, ME requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Joanna G Sorreiro** of Brunswick, ME and **Debra J Vital** of Waterbury, CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/12/2022.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

**A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: December 15, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/30/2021

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

**Docket No. HD21P2396EA Estate of: Mark A. Davis Also known as: Mark Davis, Mark Alan Davis Date of Death: 10/23/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Laura**

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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### SMOLA | from page 1

Administration Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities funds and State Mobility Assistance Program funds. The FTA Section 5310 grant program provides funding to assist with the purchase of capital equipment, mobility management, and operational costs to meet the mobility needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities of any age.

State Mobility Assistance Program funds are used to assist in the provision of transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities exclusively through the purchase of eligible vehicles. In total in this grant round, MassDOT plans to distribute \$8,912,588 of federal and state funds for vehicles, operating projects, and mobility management projects.

For more information, contact Smola at Todd. [Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Smola@mahouse.gov) or 617-722-2100.

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NOVEMBER 2021



Chief faces blowback after veteran firefighters resign

Recent turnover at the Three Rivers Fire Department has Chief Scott Turner and some residents who used to be affiliated with the department on opposing sides on what it means from a public safety standpoint.

The resignation in the past month of six veteran firefighters did not compromise the department's ability to answer calls, Turner insists, because all have been replaced and the all-volunteer TRFD is fully staffed with 23 firefighters.

"The community has nothing to worry about," Turner said. "They are safe."

The resignations were the final chapter in an internal saga that actually started brewing eight years ago when Turner became chief and was intent on raising standards, he said, but tensions really began to rise two years ago when he started emphasizing fitness requirements.

Fire dept. funds debated at special town meeting

It seemed the residents who attended the Monson Special Town Meeting Monday were in agreement over which items they wanted to approve until it came to the sixth article.

Article 6, which asked if town meeting would agree to raise and appropriate the recommended sum of \$32,000 from Free Cash to extend the contract between the town and Tec Ton Architecture to continue assessments on the Monson Fire Department, caused an hour-long discussion between residents and

town officials.

Over the past year, the town commissioned an audit of its 1970s-era fire department building and recommendations for an upgrade, which boils down to either refurbishing and expanding the current station house or building a new one from scratch. An amendment to raise the amount to a total of \$92,720 failed and the original article was unanimously approved.

Vets pass through town on 90-mile march to Boston

On a frost-covered morning last week, three flag-carrying former U.S. service members set out on a march to Boston and the Statehouse to raise awareness of critical issues veterans face, passing through Chicopee, Ludlow, Palmer, and Warren along the way. They stopped on Springfield Street in Three Rivers briefly to have their photo taken before pushing on.

James Chartier, a former U.S. Army staff sergeant who started the 90-Mile March in 2016, was joined by two other Hampden County veterans, Keith Germain, who has over a dozen years of service with the Army and Air Force Reserves, and Michelle Dunfield, Germain's sister, who retired as a chief master sergeant after 26 years in the Army and Air Force Reserves.

Residents deliver care packages

Once again, residents of Monson can show their support for their neighbors who are serving in the U.S. military through the annual Monson Military Care Package Drive on Nov. 21.

Annually, Monson residents who are serving in the military

receive care packages from their friends and family members to show their support and let them know their service is appreciated. Each package contains hygiene products, snacks, and letters from students at Granite Valley Middle School. Co-chairman of the Military Care Package Drive Committee MaryAnn Fabrycki said this year, over five women and 26 men are going to have care packages made for them.



World War II veteran shares his memories

Philip Christensen entered the U.S. Navy two days shy of his 25th birthday to serve his country during World War II aboard the USS Arkansas. Now, at age 102, the Palmer resident recently reflected on his service, which included America's next war after World War II.

He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Area Medal with two stars for active service during the pivotal battles in Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Later, in the Navy Reserve, he served twice during the Korean War. He helped train the new recruits for the Navy Reserve and later went on special assignment to Germany to bring back one of the two ice breakers loaned to Russia during World War II.



Pet of the Month Cinder

DECEMBER 2021



Light Up Palmer, Tree Fest return

Light Up Palmer, the annual event to usher in the Christmas season, was held Dec. 4 in Depot Park and featured ice sculpting from Michael Rondeau, free coffee and hot chocolate from Dunkin', the official lighting of the park, a reading of "The Polar Express," food trucks and more. Chairman of the Light Up Palmer Committee Christine Smith also said she was excited to have popular local singer Noah Lis, who previously auditioned for "The Voice," provide a special performance.

When the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center opens its vintage doors at 4 p.m. Friday for the start of a multi-weekend, Christmas-themed festival, it represents the institution's next big step in its recovery from a stubborn pandemic heading into its second year.

The ninth annual Tree and Wreath Festival also returned for the weekend of Dec. 3-5. Shuttered for most of the pandemic, the PHCC, at 2072 Main Street, has been deprived of the self-sustaining revenue its rich palette of programming usually provides.

The festival helps ensure the arts have a home not just here, but in the region. The concerts, exhibits, lectures, and other events draw residents from around Western Mass and beyond.

Santa's Elves help 'Stuff the Cruiser'

For the second consecutive year, Lori Chiacchia and her Santa's Elves of Palmer were determined to help local families in financial distress have something to smile about at Christmastime.

One of the ways they make a difference is by encouraging residents to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the second annual Stuff the Cruiser event at the Palmer Police Department. This year, Santa's Elves



asked people to bring a non-perishable food item for Palmer Food Share to the event. Their Facebook group had been buzzing daily with posts about the dozens of local children sponsored by group members and Chiacchia did a livestream from Tables at The Farm as winners were picked for the gift basket raffle the restaurant hosted.

It was another successful Stuff the Cruiser this year with hundreds of toys and hundreds of pounds of food donated.

Santa makes the rounds

Santa and Mrs. Claus made several visits to the area in the days leading up to Christmas. In addition to an appearance at Hryniewicz Park, there

was a pancake breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus sponsored by the Three Rivers Ladies Auxiliary at the fire house. In Holland, Santa entertained residents at the police department and the Community Center.

Monson residents ordered to get rid of their bees

After a Sept. 23 Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, Monson neighbors Roxanne Gunther and James O'Connell both left unsatisfied, since a decision on whether or not O'Connell and his partner Tammy Lee McCaffrey can keep honeybees on their property was put on hold.

Gunther's stance on the issue was based on the assertion that the United States Department of Agriculture states honeybees are considered livestock and animals are not to be housed within 75 feet of any lot line. In the September meeting, Gunther also said O'Connell has a one-quarter acre of land, less than what the zoning requires.

Eventually, the decision was made by a 2-1 vote that the honeybees are considered livestock and O'Connell and McCaffrey were ordered to get rid of their bee hives.

School Committee agrees on a new marking system

During a school committee meeting on Dec. 1, the graduation requirements for the new student guardian handbook were discussed in greater detail.

Changes already approved

during the Oct. 20 meeting included the math program increasing from three to four credits and the social studies program decreasing from four to three credits, in order to meet the MassCore requirements. An undeclared decision involved the marking system at Palmer High School.

To be more consistent with the majority of Massachusetts school districts, the Academic Council recommended the change to the marking system.

Palmer High Principal and Academic Council member Susan North said, "these points can help to decrease the annual dropout rate, which is one of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education accountability indicators for the district."

Cash bail set for driver accused of fatal hit and run

The local woman charged with killing a man after striking him with her vehicle near downtown while driving under the influence of alcohol then leaving the scene remains in jail.

Nicole Matanes, a Three Rivers resident, had her second court appearance on Dec. 9, for a dangerousness hearing in Palmer District Court. The result of the hearing is that it appears Matanes may be spending her next birthday in custody at the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee. She was ordered held on \$100,000 cash bail pending a Jan. 7 pre-trial hearing. Matanes turns 34 on Dec. 30, according to court records.

On Nov. 30, at around 1 p.m. Joe Labroad, 74, was walking with his dog Sammy on North Main Street near Wright Street when he was struck by a vehicle later identified as a 2016 Ford Escape police said was driven by Matanes. Police say Matanes kept driving and was found a short time later with her badly damaged vehicle at FitClub on Route 20 in Monson, where she has been employed as general manager.



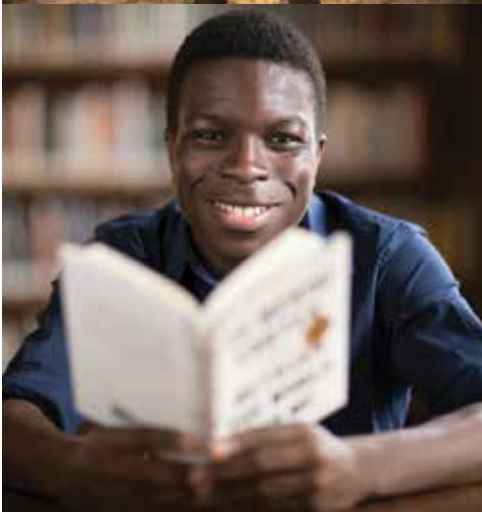
Pet of the Month Zeke



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